

## From the Editors

Every now and then *The Victorian Naturalist* receives papers with a common thread that can be published together in a special issue. Such is the case with this volume. Each article deals with weeds or pest plants, either as the primary focus or as a secondary focus.

Weeds are widely acknowledged as being detrimental, but several articles presented in this issue highlight that weeds can be beneficial. Jayawardana suggested that the long-term persistence of willow roots after a removal program is necessary as habitat until native species revegetate the area. Similarly, Carlos and Gibson argue that weed removal must be carried out in stages and in parallel with re-vegetation programs. Otherwise bird species may suffer, as a re-vegetated area may not provide adequate resources for the bird community for many years. This concept, of weeds as a potential friend to fauna, is presented also by Birtchnell and Gibson, and Hubregtse provides a brief view of life in a weedy lawn.

The more widely held view of weeds as pest plants is central to the papers by Bachmann and Johnson, Milne and Jolley and Moran. The photograph on page 136, showing the highly invasive nature of the Bluebell Creeper, exemplifies this. *Weeds: a brief introduction* provides a synopsis of why weeds are widely viewed as pest plants, as well as why they become so problematic.

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